Air Ops Notes

What we did:

* Briefed/familiarized approximately 240 people (students, team members, visitors) on aviation operations.
* Air Operations participated/assisted in the Academy’s Initial Attack Drill utilizing Air Attack 1, Fire Boss T-204, and a Type 3 Helicopter, 19BH.
* Conducted an All Risk Aviation Exercise that involved DNR Forestry, Enforcement, MN State Patrol, and LifeLink III aircraft. This included a short haul demonstration, with a risk assessment review and implementation of the risk mitigations.
* Facilitated an after action review of the All Risk exercise with all parties involved.
* S-219, S-271, and S-270 classes were briefed on helicopter operations, as well as an overview of the PSD & Helitorch.
* Utilized 7 trainees in Air Operations (ASGS, HEB2, ABRO’s, TOLC, DDECK, and HMGB Trainees).

What worked well:

* During the “Incident within an Incident class” an All Risk Aviation Exercise was conducted that involved DNR Forestry, Enforcement, MN State Patrol, and LifeLink III. This was very beneficial to the IMT as a whole, as well as the LifeLink crew, State Patrol, and the students in the IWI class.
* Coordination with U of M staff on use of facilities and grounds. U of M staff was a great help to our operation again this year.
* Having the grass mowed adjacent to the helibase to meet the needs of the classes for hands on training.
* Having a dedicated Aircraft Base Radio Operator (ABRO)
* Having the two port-a-johns and hand wash station at the helibase again for this year.
* Utilizing Interagency/USFS aviation staff to participate and assist in the S-271 Class as well as helping out at the Helibase.
* Coordination with Logistics was very effective and efficient.
* Posting a NOTAM for the IA fire drill on Thursday.
* Gave an opportunity to input future changes into the MN DNR Airspace de-confliction plan
* Developed a dedicated Project Aviation Safety Plan (PASP) to support the aviation exercises.

What could we improve on:

* Dedicated Helibase manager.
* Continued coordination with airport traffic for aviation exercises. Notams’, etc.
* Allow for earlier communications with U of M staff on ground use and layout for the Helibase.
* Provided dedicated times for planning/coordination of live exercises with the IMT and Cadre.
* Ensure that the PASP is updated & used for future academies.